



# H.S.H PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO

## Sovereign Prince of Monaco

Your Excellencies,  
Dear Friends,

I am delighted that Thierry de MONTBRIAL has chosen Monaco as the venue for the 6<sup>th</sup> "World Policy Conference" which he organises and presides over with limitless commitment and passion.

This gives me the wonderful opportunity to extend my warmest welcome to each and every one of you.

However, our thoughts are with the South African nation at this time, as they mourn the loss of their father but also express their gratitude, through song, for consigning apartheid to history.

We would therefore like to join in this tribute to President Mandela; a just man, a man of peace, reconciliation and unity.

Dear Thierry de MONTBRIAL, your conference has set itself the aim of in some way taking stock, at regular intervals, of the state of developments which are impacting international governance in a constantly changing world.

Monaco pays close attention to international relations at a time when interdependence is constantly increasing and situations in other countries also concern us.

At the same time information crosses more and more borders and often in real time. It reveals people's expectations and sometimes their hesitation on the road to democracy.

It also shows us that democracy cannot be imposed but must be built progressively according to each State's history.

However this does presuppose a national reconciliation in countries where the State has disintegrated and where a consensus develops around a form of social contract based on a desire to live together.

Nevertheless, we are seeing an increasing number of trouble spots, often occurring simultaneously in many countries where there is a united desire for change.

Moreover these regions of the world undergoing these uprisings often have close historical or economic ties to us.

The art of diplomacy lies then in providing rapid but not hasty responses, which are proportionate and balanced, based on a realistic understanding of the nature and extent of the changes occurring, with a view to supporting change without resorting to intervention and thus helping to ease a smooth transition.

Certain States apply this approach and sometimes make it part of a wider intergovernmental framework.

Your conference assigns itself an even greater task: to contribute to the creation of international governance with the message that economic and social reforms, along with respect for freedom are guarantees of peace.

Under my leadership the Principality plays its part and continues its policy of openness and support at a time when the international climate is marked by the repercussions of the economic and financial crisis, as well as, in certain regions of the world, outbreaks of political and military tension.

This spirit of openness is expressed as much by the strengthening of our bilateral and multilateral diplomatic relations, as by a stated commitment to model policies for environmental protection, sustainable development and humanitarian cooperation.

With regard to financial matters, my country, in line with long-standing commitments to the OECD on tax transparency, has signed information exchange agreements with nearly 30 countries.

It is also part of the general movement towards joining the OECD's multilateral convention.

With regard to international cooperation, my government has maintained its very active policy of focusing on projects for the least developed countries and those with whom our tradition of cooperation goes back historically. A return to fiscal balance will give a new impetus to our Official Development Assistance.

President François HOLLANDE's recent state visit to Monaco confirmed the excellent relations between the Principality and France, relations which are rooted in history.

At the same time the Principality is preparing to engage in discussions with the European Union in order to refine its position with a view to resolving certain difficulties caused by developments, particularly with regard to the exchange of goods and services.

As a member of the Council of Europe since 2004, Monaco also supports many of its programmes, confirming our commitment to standards of Human Rights, respect for civil liberties and that of the Rule of Law with strict respect for our individual requirements.

Monaco has 15 Ambassadors working with 27 States and various international organisations, all contributing to help carry my country's message even further.

Along with its consular network, this diplomatic network helps promote Monaco's economy and culture as well as its attractiveness to tourists to a wider audience.

My country's presence and involvement in the international scene also helps develop cooperation in many other areas through the support of candidates, papers and actions in the fields which we care deeply about.

Finally, our recognition within International Organisations, as so vividly manifested by the official visit of Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to Monaco on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my country's membership of the United Nations Organisation, also attests to the vigour of our international actions.



Each time I travel abroad, either for official or private visits, I am also struck by the interest and curiosity my country produces.

I wish you every success in the work and discussions taking place during this Conference and hope that you will try out the Principality's hospitality and see for yourselves its openness to the world.